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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the patent application of Max Abecassis)

Application No.: 07/832,335)

Art Unit: 2712

Parent Filed: 02/07/1992)

Examiner: Thai Tran

CPA Filed: 07/10/1998)

TC 2100 MAIL ROOM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ^E

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 4, 2000

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

[✓] In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 77-96, and add claims 97-105 as follows:

^{E₁}
^{SUB F₁}
-- 97. (Newly added) An apparatus capable of playing an optical disc storing (1) a video program including within, and not provided by an alternative program source, at least one parallel video segment for variably playing a scene of the video program; (2) segment information, not created by a user of the video program, directly defining a plurality of video segments; and (3) at least one segment code for inhibiting a control function from interfering with a playing of a video segment; the apparatus comprising processing, random accessing, and buffering means for:

inhibiting, responsive to the segment information and a segment code, a control function of the apparatus from interfering with a playing of at least one video segment;

selecting, responsive to the segment information, video segments from within the video program; and

playing, without requiring an alternative program source, the selected video segments as a seamless version of, from within, and less in length than the length of, the video program, the playing comprising a video buffering for seamlessly skipping over a retrieval of at least a portion of a parallel video segment included within the video program.

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